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The Octofoil, August/September/October 2004

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Volume LIX Number 4 Aug.,Sept., Oct., 2004

60th Reunion 2005 Crystal City Marriott Hotel *September 23, 24, and 25, 2005*

Finally, after much talk and several visits to the hotel, the final plans for our 60th Reunion are complete. There may be some minor changes, such as in meeting times, but basically the information contained in here is complete.

The reunion is scheduled for a Friday, Saturday and Sunday this time. These days and dates were at the suggestion of the hotel. The hotel is filled on weekdays with their usual large crowd of commercial patrons. The weekends are therefore very open, and they are happy to have us at that time. The weekends also allow them to give us a very good rate for our stay, and this time of year is after the very busy tourist season in the Washington, DC area.

The tentative schedule looks like this: Friday, 23 September will basically be a registration day, with a Board of Governors meeting in the afternoon. Exact time and location of all events will be in the Program to be given to each member when they register. Friday night will be the welcoming reception and beer party in the hotel.

There will be a breakfast scheduled each morning, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, cost of which will be included in the basic cost of the Reunion.

For Saturday, 24 September: On Saturday morning after breakfast, which will have to start at 6:30 a.m. in order to allow for movement by charter bus. There will be charter buses, leaving at 8:15 a.m. to take the entire group to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC, where our Memorial Service will be held starting at 9:00 a.m. We have a special event permit from the National Park Service for this event. There will be a military color guard, a bugler to play "Taps," and possibly a military firing squad to fire the three volley salute. A flower arrangement in the design of the Octofoil will be placed at the World War II Memorial, and a group photograph will be taken of this event. After the ceremony and the photograph, all will return to the buses and we will go to Arlington National Cemetery for two things. One, to view the memorial to Lt. Col. Matt Urban, one of the members of our Division to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor, and second, if time permits, to see the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. After this, the buses will return everyone to the hotel.

After lunch, (on your own), we will have the regular business meeting of the Association, probably from about 2:00 p.m. till 4:00 p.m. After that, dinner on your own, and then special entertainment in the hotel's own theater from about 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The entertainment is still being worked on, and should be confirmed before the next Octofoil comes out.

Sunday, 25 September: Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (included). After breakfast there will be time for those who wish to, to attend the church of their choice. There will be a Board of Governors meeting at 1:00 p.m., and after that, free time until the reception and banquet scheduled for Sunday night. Reception, with open bar, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., with the banquet dinner from 7:00 p.m. to about 9:00 p.m.

Monday, 26 September: Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. (included). After this, it is check out time and time to start home for those who are not staying extra days to see more of this area.

If anyone wants to come in a day or two early, or stay a day or two later, the hotel is offering us our special rate for two days before and two days after the Reunion, for those who would like to extend their visit to the Washington area.

Now, as to the cost of this reunion. As you know, dealing with costs in larger cities can get expensive. Our hotel, the Crystal City Marriott is located in Virginia, just across the Potomac River from downtown Washington, DC. Regular rates in this hotel are over \$190.00 per night. We are being given a special rate of \$110.00 per night. This kind of rate in this area is almost unheard of. We are being treated very well by this hotel. The hotel is located in a large complex known as Crystal City. There are many large office buildings, hotels and apartment buildings in this complex. The hotel sits on top of a four city block square underground shopping center that contains many kinds of stores and restaurants. Brochures, complete with maps, that will be in each individual registration packet, will explain more about the hotel and the underground complex.

Cost for all of the above scheduled events are included in a single price structure and there will be NO ADDITIONAL COSTS except for the group photo of the Memorial Service, and if you park your car in the underground garage, you will have to pay your own parking charges. Other than those two items, everything is included in the total costs as follows:

Per person costs for single, double, triple and quad rooms as follows: Single \$587.00; Double \$422.00; Triple \$368.00; Quad \$338.00.

Deposits of \$150.00 per person must be sent with the reservation form that is printed in this Octofoil. Deposits can be made anytime starting 1 November 2004, and all deposits must be made by 1 April 2005. Final payment must be made by 1 August 2005 — No Exceptions!!! Make checks or money orders payable to "60th Reunion 2005." We are unable to accept credit cards, so please send checks or money orders.

For some of you, who like to have additional space for a hospitality room or CP, the hotel suggested instead of paying for an extra room, to upgrade your accommodations to a mini-suite (or as they call it an Executive King room), and they are willing to do this with an additional charge of \$40.00 per nite. This is much less expensive than paying for two rooms. If you would like to do this, when you mail in your registration form, where there is a line for special requests, just say "upgrade," and your reservation will be upgraded. Any other special requests, such as special diets, etc., you should also note in this line.

For those of you who would like to rent motorized wheelchairs, the hotel has located a place for you to do that also. If you wish to do this, contact the following organization, and be sure to mention that the Crystal City Marriott Hotel recommended them, and you will be given a discounted rate. This company will deliver the chairs to the hotel for you and pick them up when you depart for home. To do this contact Zask Medical Supply, in Alexandria, VA, phone number 703-354-1266.

In case of necessary cancellations by individual members, refunds will be made in full unless we have had to post guarantees with the hotel or other suppliers. In that case, the refunds will be made less the amount put up in non-refundable guarantees. All refunds will be handled on a case by case basis, and the decision of the Reunion Committee will be final.

The reservation form printed in this Octofoil is the form needed to make your reservations. Make a copy of it if you do not want to cut up your Octofoil. Make all reservations, and direct all correspondence to the Reunion Committee. Do not contact the hotel, as they will just refer you to the Reunion Committee. If any one has questions, call Bill Robey at the toll free number listed at the end of this article.

The Reunion Committee consists of, at the present time, Bill Robey, Chairman; Richard Cohen, formerly 60th Infantry, as Vice Chairman; Jackie Armstrong, widow of John Armstrong, will co-ordinate with the Ladies Auxiliary as the committee representative for the women of the Association. Further appointments to the Reunion Committee will be made as they become necessary. If anyone wants to help, contact me as soon as possible.

Some of the younger generation, sons and daughters of members, have volunteered to help. Mary Cooper, daughter of Jack Blann; John Sabato, son of John Sabato, both have offered to help with the registration desk and anything else we need them to do. I hope that many more members of our younger generation will be attending this Reunion. Encourage your children and grandchildren to attend.

The hotel is going to provide us with a web site, and will provide a digital camera for us to use during the Reunion. Pictures taken during the reunion will be put on the web site right away. At the end of the Reunion, the hotel will give us the web site to use as our own. We will need to find someone to take over as Web Master and keep the web site updated. I hope that one of the younger generation, who is a computer expert, will volunteer to take over this job.

We need color pictures of the various unit insignias to put on the web site. If you have any, please send them to me.

You can contact me directly at: W.G. Robey, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. By phone: toll free 1-866-229-2377 you will be asked to enter a pin number, enter 3322, and the call will go through toll free. L [REDACTED]

With the added attraction of the World War II Memorial, and being able to have our Memorial Service there, there should be a great turnout for this 60th Reunion. Make every effort to get as many members to attend as you can, and encourage them to have their children and grandchildren attend also.

Bill Robey, 15th Engineers — President & General Chairman 2005 Reunion.

TIP OF THE HAT

We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

Dr. Martin M. Gross in memory of **Capt. Sidney Tamse.**

Monty McDaniel in memory of his Uncle, **Paul Alexander, DSC (KIA 6/14/44) Co. G - 60th Inf.**

George H. Brown in memory of **Louis Vivolo** of the 9th M.P. Platoon.

Mrs. Helen M. Holmes in loving memory her husband, **Joseph A. Lagattuta** and his departed buddies of Co. K - 47th Infantry.

Mrs. Florence Nissen in loving memory of her husband, **Henry Nissen, Service Co. - 39th Inf.**

William Rybka in memory of **Frank W. Haines, Jr.** of Hdq. Bttry. - 84th Field Art'y Bn.

Mrs. Alice F. Haines in loving memory of her husband, **Frank W. Haines, Jr.**

Joseph P. Killen in memory of ex-Board of Governors member **Frank W. Haines, Jr.**

Bill Muldoon in memory of a good buddy, **George Merz, Co. L - 47th Inf.**

Beverly A. Phillips in memory of her father, **Dr. Russel M. Hummel, Co. D - 9th Med. Bn.**

Gertrude Morris in loving memory of her husband, **Leonard M. Morris, Co. B - 47th Inf.**

Jack A. Collier in memory of his good buddy, **Bob Cole, Co. C - 47th Inf.**

George H. Brown in memory of **"Red" Thompson, Co. K - 47th Inf.** and **Ralph Witzkin, Service Co. - 47th inf.**

Jack R. Blann in memory of **Dick Granbery** of the 9th Recon Troop.

Monty McDaniel in memory of **John Doxsee** and **Nick Paich**, both of Co. G - 60th Inf.

Edward V. Drabik in memory of his wife, **Kathrine Drabik**

Edward J. McNamara in memory of his Fox Co. AAA-O buddies.

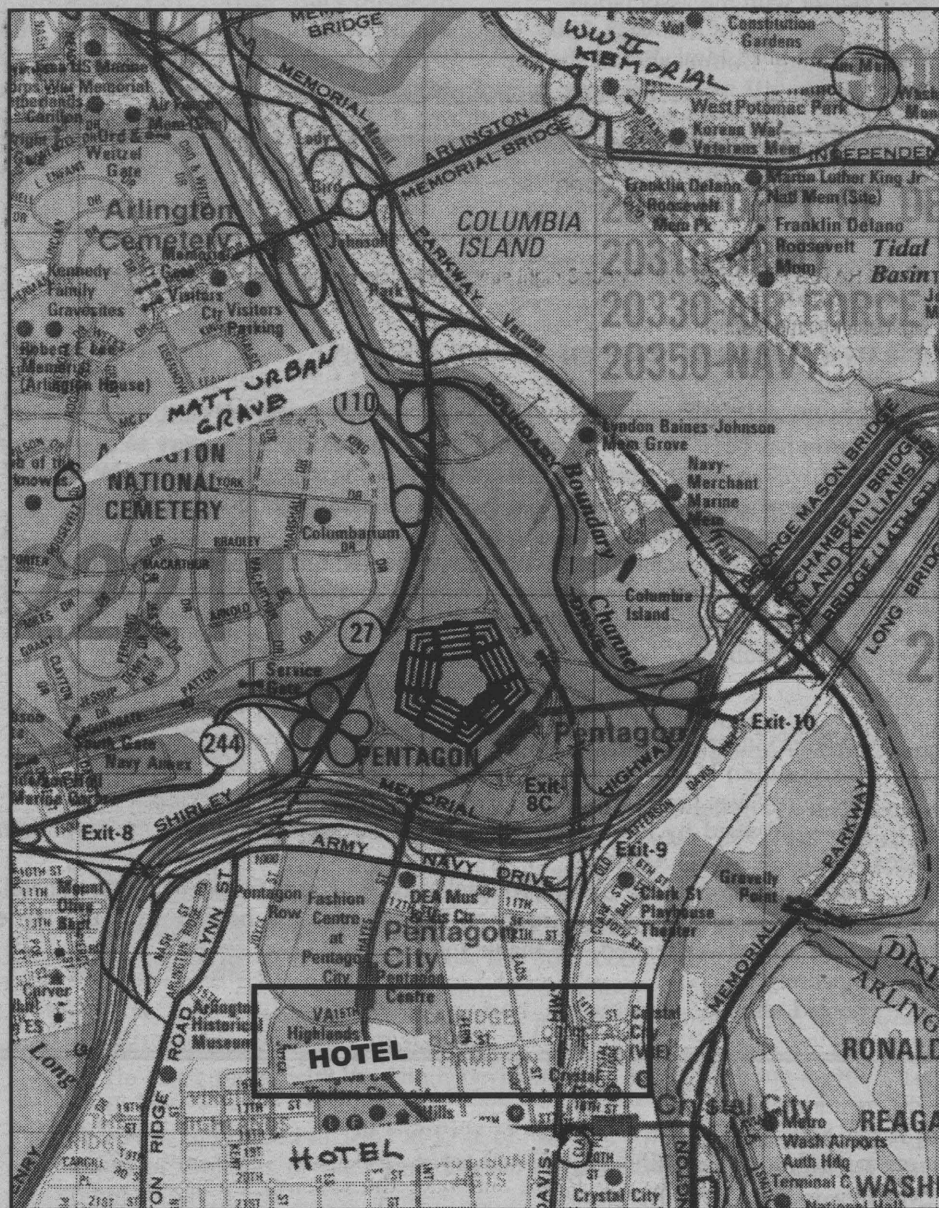
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George H. Brown in memory of **Bob Cole, Co. C - 47th Inf.**

Hal C. Saum, Hdq. Co. 3rd Bn., 47th Inf. in honor of **Dan Quinn** for all the things he did for us during his tenure.

John Bonkowski in memory of **Richard "Dick" Granbery** (Ninth Recon), **Robert "Bob" Cole** (Co. C - 47th), **Evan "Red" Thompson** (Co. K - 47th), and **John "Al" Young** (Co. D - 60th)

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The Deadline for the submission of copy for the next issue is December 20th

LADIES CORNER

Hi Ladies,

Heard from Bill Robey (Men's Assoc. Pres.) about the 60th Reunion for 2005, which by now you all know will be in Washington, D. C. from Sept 23rd to Sept 25th. I am waiting for a menu to see about a luncheon for the Ladies meeting. I will have more details in the next Octofoil. Bill has been busy arranging a lot of great things for the 60th Reunion. For this luncheon the lady at the hotel said they will have to have an exact count before we arrive, so Ladies when you get the information in the paper, please be sure to send in your check so you can attend. No "Add-On's" that day.

Henry and I went to the 60th Anniversary of D-Day in Europe in June. We were in the UK, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. We saw many old churches, American & German Cemeteries, and went to all of the beach landing places in Normandy (Utah, Omaha, Juno, Sword, and Gold) and many memorials to the men of WWII. We saw where the Berlin Wall was, Brandenburg Gate, Check Point Charlie and too much more to mention. This coming year it will be the 60th Anniversary of the crossing of the Bridge at Remagen and they will be having special programs for that. We saw what was left of the bridge (the tower parts) on both sides of the Rhine River. Henry would have liked to go across the river and into the town where he was captured, but that was not on the schedule. It was a very busy 14 day tour.

We landed in London, England, stayed two days and then on the ferry across the Channel and on from there. There was much to see, and not enough time to stay too long at each sight, but it was a great experience for us, and we learned (I guess me mostly, since Henry was there already) a lot about different areas. I would have a hard time picking out the one thing I enjoyed the most about the trip. Too many sad and beautiful things to choose from. And . . . Not enough time to shop. Am still confused about the money there! !

In August Henry and I went to Washington, DC to see the WWII monument. It is beautiful. The carvings in brass, the fountains, and art work were well done. I know it took a long time to get this one built, but good things take time, so they say. It is too bad that some of the WWII vets never got to see it while they lived, but I'm sure they see it from where they are now. We also went to the Vietnam, Korean and Roosevelt monuments that day. All are very impressive. Of course in the middle of August who would have thought it would be in the high 90s.

Well, till the next paper, start a project for the table, or shop around for a donation item. The more items we have to chance off the more money we can give out, and since this is the 60th Reunion, I hope everyone will try to attend to make it a "Great 60th".

Good health and Happy Thanksgiving to all,

Jean Geary, Ladies Auxiliary President

Sons and Daughters of the NINTH

Howdy from Texas!

As you have read in the OCTOFOIL, the 60th Reunion will be in the Washington, D. C. area. We still have a year to save our pennies and plan on going - we, the Sons and Daughters are going to plan several activities for our selves - maybe some dance lessons - who knows what all we will have in store. Since Washington, D. C. is such a wonderful and historic town this would be a good time for us to join our families and celebrate our Dad's military service.

I will be sending out a letter to our Sons and Daughters with more information as we get closer to the date of the reunion. Please get your name and address to me so I can get you on our mailing list. We are going to have information on ordering our "Sons and Daughters" tee-shirts in the mailing as well.

Please check out the "NEW" picture of the group. It was taken at the 59th Reunion in Monticello, New York.

Mary Blann Cooper



May 12, 2004 Sons and Daughters at the Monticello, NY 59th Reunion

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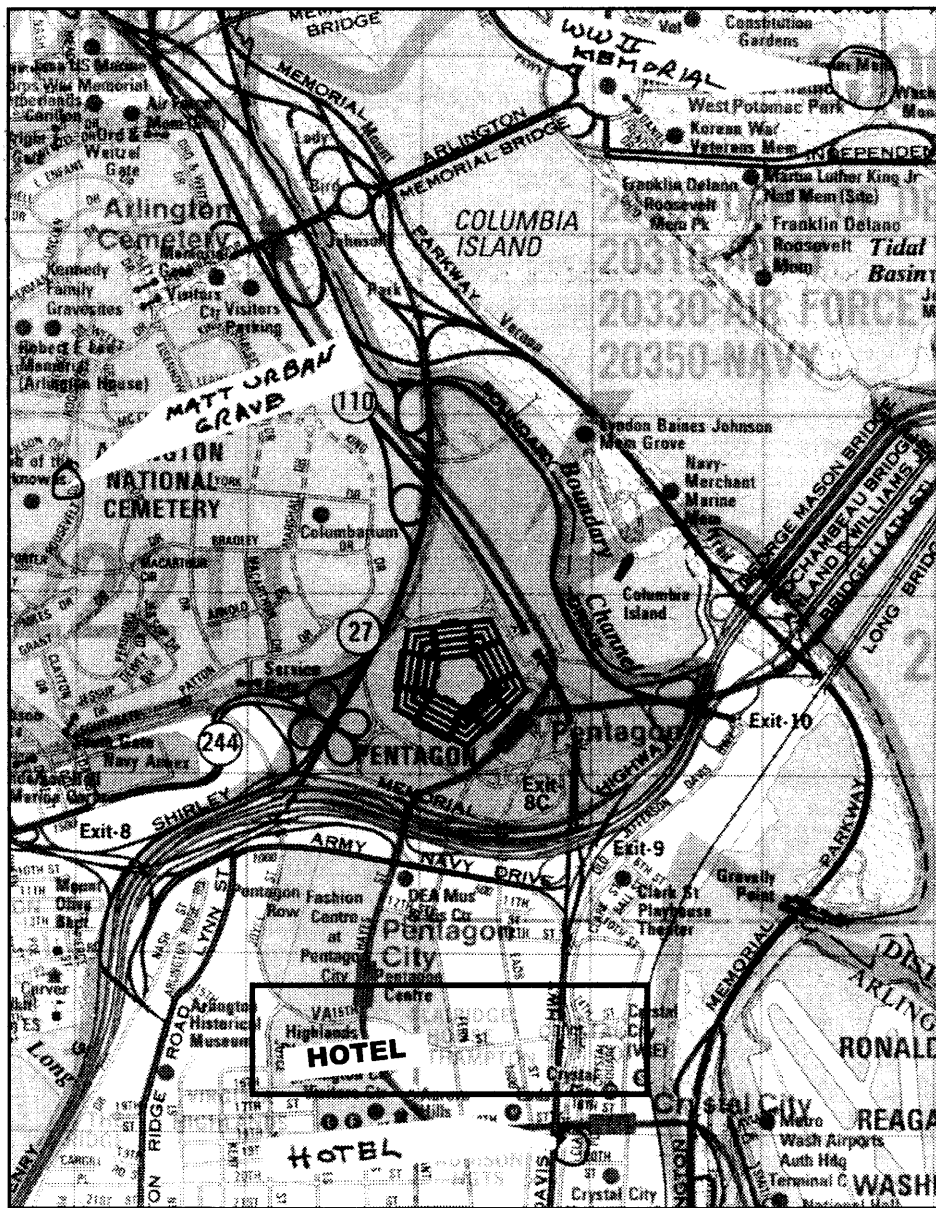
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Mary Blann Cooper



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TAPS SOUNDED

*The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.
On Fame's eternal camping-ground their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.*

TAPS SOUNDED

- | | |
|---|---|
| William L. Horan
Co. M - 47th Inf. | Frank W. Haines, Jr.
Hdq. Btry. - 84th F. A. Bn. |
| Samuel Pollick
Co. H - 47th Inf. | J. Graff Bomberger
1st Bn. Hdq. Co. - 60th Inf. |
| Leonard M. Morris
Co. B - 47th Inf. | Aaron Lubin
Btry. B - 84th F. A. Bn. |
| Anthony Campo
Co. M - 39th Inf. | William C. Greco
Btry. A - 34th F. A. Bn. |
| Robert L. Cole
Co. C - 47th Inf. | Lawrence Gould
Btry. C - 60th F. A. Bn. |
| Robert Tracy Groover
Co. E - 39th Inf. | Leo Bank
Co. I - 39th Inf. |
| George Merz
Co. L - 47th Inf. | Henry Nissen
Service Co. - 39th Inf. |
| Edward F. Pavlich
Co. F - 60th Inf. | Roy Gordon
Hdq. Co. - 47th Inf. |

Co. H - 47th Inf.
Samuel Pollick

This letter is to inform you that my beloved husband of 56 years, Samuel Pollick, passed away on July 14, 2004. He served with Company H of the 47th Infantry Regiment.

He was diagnosed with a muscle disease 32 years ago which got progressively worse. In the last 10 years it was complicated with heart disease. With the help of a Hoyer lifter, I was able to get him out of bed and into his wheelchair. He was totally disabled, but had a brilliant mind. He reminisced of the war days, when with the help of the Allies, freed the world. He read a lot. He must have 100 books on World War II, all six of Winston Churchill's books, and 26 VHS volumes of "The World at War".

When Tom Brokaw wrote "The Greatest Generation" _____rightfully so.
Sincerely,
Anita Pollick

Headquarters Battery - 84th F. A. Bn.
Frank W. Haines, Jr.

Frank's struggle with Alzheimer's Disease ended on August 1st with his family at his bedside. I have been overwhelmed with the outpouring of wonderful messages and telephone calls from his friends and colleagues. It has helped me get through this difficult time. I am enclosing a memorial gift in Frank's name. The Ninth Division was very dear to him and we treasured the friendships formed at the reunions.

Sincerely,
Alice Haines

Headquarters Co. - 47th Infantry
Roy Gordon

My husband, Roy Gordon, was a proud member of the 9th Division. He left to go to North Africa on October 1942, arriving in Safi and fought the war from there. He started out as a Private and from a Battlefield Commission in North Africa rose to a Second Lieutenant in the 47th Regiment.

He also landed in Sicily in 1943 and when that was won, went on to England to prepare for the Normandy invasion on June 6, 1944. He landed on Utah Beach. He was also in the Battle of the Bulge and met the Russians at the Elbe River.

He, very sadly for me, died on April 15, 2002 and was laid to rest in Arlington. He was a life member of your Association. I should have written earlier but it has taken me a long while to realize that he is no longer here.

You and your boys saved the world for us and I was always proud to be married to someone I considered a genuine "hero".

With sincere good wishes I remain,
Yours very truly,
Tessie T. Gordon (Mrs. Roy)

OBITUARIES

Company M - 47th Infantry
Lt. Col. William H. Horan



Lt. Col. William H. Horan was Lieutenant with Anti-Tank Company, 47th Inf. and Company K - 47th Inf. before he was assigned to Company M - 47th Inf. prior to the Division's operation in Sicily. Starting as the leader of a platoon, Bill rose through the tasks assigned as company Executive Officer. By the end of the war in Germany, Bill had been promoted to Captain and was commanding the company. He had proven to be a fine officer and combat leader. He was wounded and decorated with the Silver Star Medal for gallantry during the Normandy campaign.

Bill stayed in the service after the war. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel and enrolled in college to earn teaching credentials. Settling in Columbus, Georgia, he began a teaching career in the local school system. Bill died in Columbus on July 25, 2004 at the age of 86. He will be sadly missed by all of the survivors of Company M, 47th Infantry who knew him.

Condolences may be sent to his widow, Mrs. Norma Horan at the address above.

(Editors Note: The following letter was received before we learned of the death of Lt. Col. William H. Horan. It is unsolicited proof of the esteem held by the men who served under the leadership of Lt. Col. William H. Horan.)

Co. M - 47th Inf.
John L. Rowe

Please accept the enclosed check for one year's subscription to the Octofoil. I was a member of M Co.- 47th from August 1944 thru October 1945, and somehow lost contact with the association.

In February of this year, 2004, I visited Col. William H. Horan (Retired) who was Company Commander at the end of WW II. He served 27 years in the Army and another 19 years teaching school. How's that for a career? He lives in Columbus, GA with his devoted wife, Norma. I mention this for anyone who may remember this great soldier.

Sincerely,
Jack Rowe

Battery B - 84th F. A. Bn.
Aaron Lubin
c/o Larry Lubin

Letter of July 21, 2004

Aaron has been very ill for the past year. He had spinal surgery in September 2003 and was in one hospital after another, then hospice from where he miraculously recovered, then hospital again, then rehab again and rehab once more.

He has been home for the past three months, can't walk, can't stand. Goes from bed to the wheelchair. He is very downhearted and I know he would love to hear from the 9th.

Hope you and yours are well.
Marilyn Lubin

Letter of August 26, 2004

I want to inform you that my father passed away on August 24. Aaron Lubin of Battery B, 84th Field Artillery Battalion. My father was proud to have served in the 9th Infantry Division.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn, sons Michael and Larry, grandchildren Alex, Mark, Evan and Amanda.

The family would like to thank Al Zenka and Ed Harris for attending the funeral. Another gentleman who introduced himself and left before we could write down his name also attended. We thank you.

Sincerely,
Larry Lubin

Co. B - 47th Inf.
Leonard M. Morris

I am writing to inform you of the death of Leonard M. Morris. I believe he was in the 47th Infantry, possibly Company B. He was in the Medical Administrative Corps. He retired from the reserve as a Major. He always spoke with great pride of his service in the 9th Infantry Division.

I am enclosing a check for your Memorial Fund in his honor.
Sincerely yours,
Gertrude Morris (wife)

OBITUARIES

Battery A - 34th F. A. Bn.
William C. Greco

I'm writing to tell you of my Father's passing on August 22, 2004. His name is William C. Greco. I know that he and my Mother knew you as I often heard them talk of you. I've enclosed his obituary and one of his prayer cards.

This is the first year my mom and he were not able to make their reunion. My Dad was always so proud to have served his country and to have been a member of the 9th Division. We are surely missing him. He was my hero and my best friend. I made sure that he had a full military funeral. He would have been very proud to see all those who honored him.

My Dad had started the V.F.W.- De La Rosa- Orzolek Post # 4954 in Old Forge, PA after WW II. He was it's first commander. The Walter Victor's had called my Mother. It made her feel good to hear from them. With the help of God, we will try to make the reunion next year in my Dad's honor. I haven't been to one since I was a little girl.

Could you please let us know how we renew our membership and with what Chapter my Father was a member? Was it Philadelphia - Delaware Valley or Greater New York - we're not sure? My Mother and I want to renew. Our address is (given above) Telephone number is (570) 562 - 2415 and answering machine: (570) 562 - 2843

Could you please put notice of my Father's passing in the Octofoil. His last eight months were pretty hard. The results of smoking finally caught up with his heart. He had just turned 87. We will miss him deeply. Thank you for your time and your friendship to my Dad.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Greco

and Mrs. Mary Greco

William C. Greco

August 22, 2004

William C. "Wimpy" Greco, 86, of Taylor, died Sunday in the VNA Hospice Unit at Moses Taylor Hospital. His wife of 58 years is the former Mary Shedler.

Born Sept. 15, 1917, in Old Forge, son of the late Carmen and Anna Marie Talarico Greco, he was a member of St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, Old Forge, and was educated in Old Forge public schools. William was self-employed and owned and operated the Old Forge Produce Grocery Market. He was also a supervisor at Fred's Cafe, Old Forge.

An Army veteran of World War II, he fought in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Tunisia and Sicily and received seven Bronze Battle Stars, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Service Star, the World War II Victory Medal and the Distinguished Unit Badge.

He was a member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association, Valley Stream, N.Y., and the Disabled American Veterans, and a life member and first commander of VFW Post 4954, Old Forge. He was also a member of the Order of the Sons of Italy and the Big Band Society and had a love for big band dancing.

He was a loving and caring husband and father who loved his work and going to Atlantic City and playing the slots. He was an avid fan of prize fighting and loved his daughter's Scottish terriers, Tessie and Tyler. Each year, he loved to attend his 9th Division Army reunion.

Also surviving are a daughter, Suzanne Greco, Taylor; a brother Anthony, Taylor; three sisters, Eleanor Cherundolo, Dr. Ann Marie Greco and Loretta Garrity, all of Old Forge; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Frank and Fred Greco, and two sisters, Irene Lupia and Jennie Pettinato.



Frank Warren Haines Jr.

August 4, 2004, Ewing Township - Frank Warren Haines Jr., 83, died Sunday at Tandem Health Care, Lawrenceville.

Born in Dexter, ME, the son of Winifred (Beverly) and Frank W. Haines Sr., he resided in Ewing since 1951. He graduated from Cony High School, Augusta, ME and from the University of Maine, class of 1948 where he was a member and president of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity. Frank served as class president for 15 years, ending with the 50th class reunion in 1998 at which he received the Alumni Association Golden "M" award for leadership.

He also did graduate study in public administration at Wayne State University, Detroit, MI under a Volker Fellowship.

He saw combat with the Ninth Division, 84th FA BN, HQ in North Africa and Sicily before being transferred to London and Paris. He remained in the U.S. Army Reserves and retired in 1967 at Lt. Col. 404th Civil Affairs Co. He served on the board of directors of the Ninth Division Association and attended many annual reunions.

Frank was employed by the New Jersey Taxpayers Association from 1951 to his retirement in 1985, serving as executive director from 1969. He belonged to several organizations and received some awards.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, two sons and a daughter, and six grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Franks' memory to the Alzheimer's Association, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834 or the Memorial Fund of the First Presbyterian Church of Ewing, 100 Scotch Rd., Ewing, NJ 08628.



COMPANY K

47th Infantry, 9th Division
The stealth outfit of WWII

Apology II

I went to my lung doctor on 10/01/04, after looking at my X-rays he said, "That damn thing is growing so slow it might take 10 years to kill you. You'll likely die of something else before it suffocates you." I immediately went home and threw out all of my heart medicine, I much rather die in one fell swoop than slow asphyxiation. Unfortunately my blood pressure was 110/64. I hate getting your expectations up, just to dash them. I am apologizing to every one except the LSU Golf Pro, I've been playing for two years without paying for membership, locker, or carts. After all the doctor didn't promise I'd live for 10 years.

I would like to especially apologize to Helen Holmes, whose nursing ethic requires her to lavish care on all the sick and halt. The 1500 miles keeps her body at home but not her heart and prayers. You can let up a little now, Helen, all I want to do is last to Christmas. Maybe, four more days to my birthday. Make it a round 83.

Clippings

Both Joe Killacky and Helen Holmes sent me interesting news clips involving the 9th Division.

Joe's was from the Chicago Tribune and is about an Illinois PFC who is in Iraq but doesn't want to be. That is not too startling, but his unit was - 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade, Ninth Infantry Division. Are we back from oblivion? Why didn't someone tell me?

Helen's was from the NY Times and is about historical re-enactors in Batavia, IL dressed in Ninth Division uniforms. They were doing battle with the German 353 Inf. Div. They didn't say who won.

The Times being true to form, had a quote from a guy protesting the re-enactment because it sent the wrong message to the youth of the land that war is just camping out. I trust neither paper, especially the Times, but they had photos of participants wearing Ninth patches, so something happened, but it could have been in Lower Sandusky.

Troops

Communication is not K's long suit; as usual only three ever call or Helen Holmes is still criss-crossing the nation to see relatives and to find some big holes to dump her surplus cash in. She is a dedicated caregiver looking for someone to give care to. She sends us notes, letters, and flowers.

Joe Killacky calls often. He and his daughter, and her daughters, made a trip to DC this summer, to see Joe's monument. He gave it an OK, maybe a big OK, better than NAM and not as good as Korea. Well we can't win them all. Photos of this trip were supposed to be in my hands a month ago, but I haven't seen them, consequently you shall not see them.

Dr. Nicklin is still practicing. I should think he could work around the clock on the Time's staff alone. He keeps trying to cure my cancer but the info he sends won't work on me because I refused chemotherapy and radiation. One experience with radiation makes you know there are things worse than death.

Arthur M. Ingram called and said he spends his time going from home to home. His main home is in Raleigh, NC, one on the beach, and one in the desert in Arizona. I encouraged him to call Nicklin and report the conversation to me. The Doc would do him bodily harm if he were not a Quaker.

I got a sad letter from Ken Horvath, Red Thompson's nephew, saying that Red was buried on April 22. He fell in his home and died of the injuries shortly thereafter. Ethel has a severe case of Alzheimers and is living in a specialized facility.

DC Reunion

If any of you, attending the reunion need any help with the area, contact my oldest son, Doug. His address is [REDACTED]

He is planning on attending the reunion, so make yourself known. If I am still alive and feel I can handle the airplanes, I'll be there.

If any of you King Company men, who can't write but have a computer, my address [REDACTED]



Bastedo and Helen at their High School Reunion. They stand in front of the same fishing boat every year. I have come to believe it is a painted backdrop.



"I'm a talent scout for K Comp'ny. Ya lookin' for work?"



"So I told Company K they'd just have to solve their own replacement problem."

CHAPTER NEWS

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

The NY Chapter held its first meeting / luncheon after the July-August summer hiatus on Friday, September 17, 2004 at 12 PM, in the Franklin Square Library, Franklin Square, Long Island, NY.

President Joe Maiale opened the meeting with members' pledge of allegiance to the flag and a moment of silence for our departed 9th comrades. Maiale dispensed with the Minutes, Financial Report and chapter business for a hot pizza lunch which was just delivered

During casual conversations Joe Killen reported on Bill Robey's 2005 reunion effort. The National Board of Governors approved the reunion to be held on September 22-25, Friday to Monday in the Crystal City complex, outside of Washington, DC. Special hotel rate including continental breakfast will prevail for 2 days before and 2 days after the basic reservation dates. Busses will be available for trips to Arlington Cemetery and the WW II Memorial in Washington. (See more reunion details in this issue of the Octofoil.)

Editor and National Secretary Treasurer Killen also noted the publishing of 5-6 issues of the Octofoil costs National approximately \$10,000 per year or \$1,750 per issue.

Because Al Zenka, chairman of the Friar Tuck mini-reunion, usually held in the fall, did not attend this meeting, Killen informed us that the Friar Tuck get-together was cancelled due to lack of minimum reservations.

We were notified of the passing of Aaron Lubin after a long illness. The NY Chapter send heartfelt condolences to his family.

After shooting the breeze and gorging ourselves on pizza and beverages, we policed the area and headed home around 2:30 PM.

Also attending, not mentioned above: Joe Charvat, Marv Levy, Bill Muldoon, Tony Varone and John Tschupp.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2004 - - also a luncheon / meeting beginning at 12 PM.

It's NY Chapter dues time, fellows. It's \$10 for one year, \$25 for 3 years and \$75 for Life Membership. Make check payable to 9th Inf. Div., Greater NY Chapter and send to

Secretary / Treasurer Al Zenka, 82 - 36 [REDACTED]

Marv Levy, Co. A - 60th [REDACTED]

FLORIDA CHAPTER

SARASOTA REUNION: Baring any additional hurricanes, the Florida chapter members will enjoy another successful Chapter Reunion starting on November 17 through the 20th. Hotel reservations have been made and confirmed. On Thursday, November 18, the group will board Marina Jack's Lunch/Cruise at 12 Noon. Then at 6:00 PM we go to the Orange Blossom Theatre Dinner/Show to see the play "Chicago". The Men's and Women's Auxiliary meetings will take place on Friday morning followed by the banquet dinner at 6:00 PM. As usual, the Hospitality Room will be stocked with a variety of drinks and snacks. Drive safely and pray for good weather.

FOUR DESTRUCTIVE HURRICANES: 2004 has been the worst year for hurricanes throughout the state of Florida. Some areas were hit harder than others. Hurricane Charley made landfall on the West Coast causing much damage around the Punta Gorda area and then making it's way to the East Coast. Hurricane Frances made landfall around the Melbourne area and made its way slowly throughout the central part of north Florida. Ivan the Terrible was a speedster. It came into Florida from the East, made its way across Florida taking almost the same path as Charley and then going into the Gulf far enough West to spare the northwest coast of Florida. Hurricane Jeanne was MEAN! She didn't spare the punches, practically the entire state of Florida felt it's fury. After the storm, this writer made a check-up of some of our members and the following are some of his findings:

H.F. & Lila Stansell: (Ormond Beach) They suffered roof and water damage inside their home. H.F. climbed on top of his roof and made some temporary repairs. They were without electric power for 9 days, lost 3 trees, fence was damaged, grapefruit fell off the remaining standing trees. Despite their misfortune, they are back inside their home and gradually getting back to normal.

Arnold & Louise Tomanek: (Matlacha, FL) Hurricane Charley was the culprit. It damaged their pool cage, one of their two boats, downed trees with one coming down causing slight damage to their home, power was out for almost a week and loads of debris to pick up around the property.

Norris & Dorothy Gray: (Melbourne) Despite the fact that his area was hit by all 4 hurricanes, Norris said he prepared well in advance to secure his home. However, trees were down, debris all over the yard, power shortage and some flooding, but they did not evacuate.

William MacDonald: (Seminole, FL) Bill says he was very lucky. His area got hit with heavy wind and rain but he escaped with very little damage to his place. Bill has been making plans to try to get to our Sarasota Reunion. He is 100% disabled and restricted to his motor scooter in order to get around. He was able to make arrangements with Greyhound Bus Co. to get him to Sarasota Bus Terminal, but as of this writing has not found transportation from the Bus Station to the Hotel. This writer has been helping by contacting the DAV, VFW and VA Service Officers but

unfortunately has not been successful. Hopefully we will see bill at the reunion.

Dora Coen: (Okeechobee, FL) In a note received from Dora together with her reservations to the Sarasota Reunion, she stated that Hurricane Jeanne caused extensive damage to her place and that she is staying with family until she can get settled into her own place again. In her note she quoted: "Come hell or high water, we (her sister Norma) will make the reunion".

Emil & Audrey DeDonato: (Dunnellon, FL) Two of the 4 hurricanes raised havoc in the Ocala/ Dunnellon area. Hurricane Frances lingered on for almost two days knocking out power, downing trees and lots of rain. Fortunately no real damage to the home except for a small leak around the chimney to the fireplace. After hurricane Jeanne added to the destruction of other properties in the neighborhood, Emil at age 86 volunteered his services to help in the clean-up. As a result he has been going to a chiropractor for three weeks.

Cletus & Lula Winningham: (Allardt, TN) By the time the storms reached their area, the winds had subsided but the rain did not. Lula reported that Cletus is improving with his back problem and that they are looking forward to making the reunion.

Roster Update
Please make the following changes to your Membership Roster:
James R. Camp: New Member. [REDACTED] 9th Div. MP
Platoon
Phone: [REDACTED] Wife: Helen
Charles F. Munger: New Member. [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED] Wife: Joyce Co. B - 47th
Hague M. O'Quinn: Change phone number to read: [REDACTED]
Departed Member
Leo Bank: Died June 16, 2004 Leo slipped and fell hitting his head on the pavement which caused internal bleeding and swelling in the brain. Leo served with Co. I - 39th Infantry. Condolences may be sent to Ms Deena Diamond, [REDACTED]

NEWS WANTED: Please send any changes of address, phone numbers and/or any newsworthy stories for the Florida Chapter Newsletter to: Emil J. DeDonato, [REDACTED]. Thank you.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER

"Greetings from the Midwest" Even though the Illinois Chapter was poorly represented at the Reunion in New York, doesn't mean our thoughts aren't with you. We missed going but hope and pray we will be well enough to make the reunion next year in the Washington, D.C. area. Enjoyed reading all about the successful reunion and about all those present. Congratulations to the new President and Board of Governors.

We have been graciously invited by the Michigan Chapter to their functions but have not been able to attend. We miss not having our Fall get together in Angola, Indiana. We had many happy years together there and was sorry to see that event cancelled. We could no longer guarantee the numbers the hotel required.

We heard from Gordon Anderson this week. He has been living with his son and wife. They recently moved again since his son's job required the move. He is now living at [REDACTED] His phone number is [REDACTED] They are all doing fine and are adjusting to their new home.

We were in touch with the Heller's recently and plan to go to lunch soon along with the Elmers. We haven't heard from the Hennemuths lately and hope they survived all the hurricanes in Florida.

It's hard to believe the holidays are right around the corner. Time flies fast the older we get. Thank God I'm doing OK, the memory plays tricks on me some times but healthwise, doing fine.

Best wishes to all for a Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays.

Michael Belmonte
[REDACTED]

MICHIGAN CHAPTER

We were blessed with a beautiful day for our picnic and memorial service at Mary Doering's lovely home near Alto, MI, and thank her for being such a gracious hostess. Present were Elmer Wagner, Tom Hatton, Rodger Alsgaard with daughter Marty, Everitt Tapp, Clyde and Ann LaBrenz, Tom and Carol Saunders, Lynn and Stella Bowers, Paul Pryjmak and daughter Pauline Slezak, Lucile Andrews and daughter Sue, and Mary Doering.

After some discussion, it was decided to have our fall meeting at the home of Margaret Wisniewski, [REDACTED]. (Southwest of Port Huron) The date is October 16 and we will eat at 1:00 PM. Please bring a dish to pass and snacks. The meat, soft drinks and tableware will be furnished by Margaret. Please RSVP a week before to Margaret at [REDACTED]. Bring your own lawn chairs.

(Ed.'s Note: The above was excerpted from the regular Chapter Newsletter.)

Nominations for 2005 officers will take place at this meeting. If time permits, we will visit Ed Wisniewski's gravesite, which is seven miles away.

(Continued on Page 8)

MAIL CALL

**Battery A - 60th F. A. Bn.
Walter Quigley**

A few lines to say hello again to all my 9th comrades. It's been a long time since I've written to the Octofoil. I still enjoy each issue and always await its arrival.

However, at this time I want to mention that one of our 'C' Battery, 60th F. A. Bn. comrades has passed away as of September 9th, 2004. He is Lawrence (Larry) Gould. I have kept in touch with many 9th buddies since our discharge in 1945. Larry and I phoned each other every now and then, especially on the holidays. His son phoned me on Sept. 10th to let me know of his dad's demise. I wanted to notify the Octofoil so his friends and all would know.

A 'hello' to Mike Belmonte while I'm at it. Hope you are doing well Mike, we miss your columns in the Octofoil. I am bothered with emphysema and must continue to do what I must do to keep going. It has sure slowed me down a lot, in fact too much.

I might say I purchased five copies of "EIGHT STARS TO VICTORY" from the Battery Press last year for each of our five children for Christmas.

Enclosed is a donation to the Memorial Fund in Larry's memory and all our fallen comrades. Also, a few extra dollars for the Octofoil postage expense.

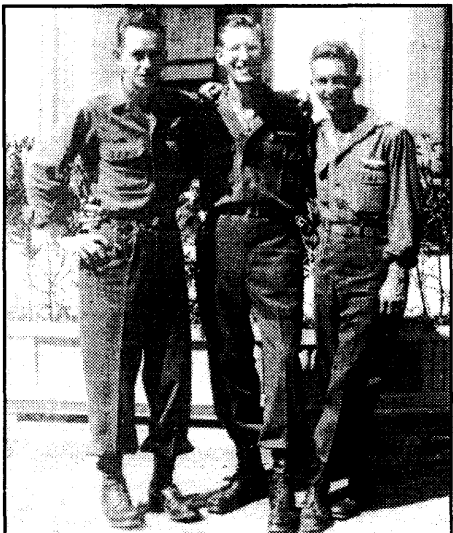
Good luck to all,
Walt Quigley

**Co. F - 39th Inf.
Edward J. McNamara**

5893

Guess my dues are due so enclosed is a check for three years plus a little for the Memorial Fund. Remember those "7-Day Leaves" after the war was over? Enclosed is a picture of three men of the second squad of the 2nd Platoon of Fox Company on the Riviera, taken on September 10, 1945. That's me, Ed McNamara on the left, David Groves is in the center, and George Genz is on the right. The man on the far right is a stranger. I have a picture of the play "YOU'VE HAD IT", that Fox Company put on while we were in a one horse town out in the boondocks named Rhieling. We took the show all over and had good reviews. Will send a copy if you like.

No more shop on Route 20. I'm not good at setting up a letter so what you see is what you get. Dan Quinn did a great job all these years. keep up the good work.

**9th Recon Troop
Gordon H. Anderson**

Please sign me up for a three year membership. My current card expires in 2004.

I have moved twice since my wife passed away on February 23, 2003.

My newest address is : (Given above.) I'm looking forward to receiving the Octofoil again. I have not received any for a period of time.

Gordon H. Anderson, Former Secretary of the Illinois Chapter.

**Co. C - 47th Inf.
Jack A. Collier**

This morning, September 9, 2004, Maxine Cole called to let us know that her husband, Bob had passed on. Like me, Bob was a replacement in Company C, 47th Regt. I served from Sept. to Nov. 1944; and Bob came in Nov. 1944 and finished out the war. At my first reunion, held at Springfield, IL in 1971, Nadine and I met Maxine and Bob Cole. What dear friends we made. In 1973 at our Boston reunion, Bob saw Evie and Henry Golabiecki, an old buddy of his from C Company, 47th, and that is how we were lucky to get to meet the Henry Golabiecki's. The six of us have sure had some good times together since then.

Enclosed is a check for the Memorial Fund in remembrance of S/Sgt. Bob Cole of Company C - 47th Infantry Regiment. What a great guy.

Thank you for all of your hard work for the Div. Assn. The DC reunion looks good.

Best Regards,
Jack A. Collier

**Co. E - 47th Inf.
Jack R. Blann**

I am enclosing a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Dick Granbery, formerly of the 9th Recon. Dick was a dear friend and close neighbor of mine. Unfortunately I didn't meet dick until the San Antonio Reunion, when we realized we lived only two blocks (about 200 yards as the crow flies) from each other in Houston. Dick held many positions in the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter and seldom missed a meeting.

Dick was the Registrar and Treasurer for the 2001 Reunion in Houston and his cheerful smile met everyone as they came in the door of the Adam's Mark Hotel. Dick, Herb Stern, and I served as an executive committee for the 2001 Reunion and spent many hours together working on the arrangements.

Alice, Dick's wife of 55 years and their four children survive him. Alice has attended all of the meetings with Dick and has always been a very strong supporter of the Association. Alice has expressed her gratitude to all of the association members who have sent condolences.

Dick will be sorely missed by all of us in the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter and his buddies in the 9th Recon.

Yours Very Truly,

Jack R. Blann

**Co. M - 60th Inf.
Harold L. Billington**

Time certainly flies quickly. I was wondering why the Octofoil's were not coming in the mail. 2004 sign-up time again. Enclosed is a check for three year membership.

Harold had been a patient at Danville Medical Center from March 15, 2002 until March 22, 2004 when he was moved to a VA Contract Nursing Home in Lincoln, IL. For Harold's buddies the address is; Maple Ridge

It was a trip of 100 miles one-way from Armington to Danville, IL; now it is 16 miles to Lincoln from Armington. Harold was 85 years old on August 26, 2004.

Sincerely,

Mildred A. Billington

**Co. M - 60th Inf.
Robert Bovanizer**

To Company M People,

Guess I better start with Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2003. We missed both of those holidays. hope we can catch up with a lot of you with this letter in MAIL CALL.

Bob and I have had a really bad year. His respiratory problems are much worse and he is in a skilled nursing home now. I had a hip replacement in August 2003 and was no longer able to care for him at home. I am still fighting an infection in the incision area. However, I am able to walk a little. We enjoyed all your beautiful Christmas cards. I have made Roster changes and will get them to you soon. We heard from MaryAnn Cloud a short while ago. She had seen some information on the Internet and wanted to know more about where her Dad (Allen) had been during the war. I have talked with some of the men who remember him and I'm writing it down for her. Also I'm sending her some books to read, strange how 50 years later it dawns on them how little they know. Allen was one of the draftees at Fort Bragg in January 1941 and stayed with the Company till Ingolstadt. He was wounded twice and each time was returned to M Company. Mary Ann Cloud's address is on the Roster. If any of you can think of anything about Allen drop her a note or call (302) 998 - 4364.

I haven't heard too much this year from all of you. Have talked with Will Thornton a couple of times. Also hear from Jim Snyder. He told us that Carolyn Buchanan has passed away. Also had a chat with Ed and Ann Tyszkla recently. Ann sounds great. Seems to be doing well. Heard Riva Singleton has moved again. I'm sure you heard by now that Cole Gronseth had passed away in February this year. He always reminded us when it was time to get in touch with all of the company. We will miss him. Will close with this sad note and hope we hear from you all soon. Take care of each other.

Sincerely,

Bob and "Me Too"

**34th Field Artillery Bn.
William L. Ring**

I'm sorry I could not make the outing in Catskill. I have a medical problem that requires me to stay close to home. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves. The weather has not been that good this summer.

I received the Octofoil with the news about the Reunion coming up in Washington. I was at the one in 1980 when Matt Urban was awarded the C.M.H. by President Carter.

Enclosed is a check for two raffle tickets. Hoping this note finds you well, I am

Sincerely,

"Ringo"

**Co. E - 60th Inf.
John W. Baswell**

I would like to renew my Dad's three year membership in the Ninth Infantry Division Association. He is doing well and is looking forward to next September. His unit was Co. E, 2nd Battalion of the 60th.

I am sending to you because I forgot who to send it to since Dan Quinn may not be doing the Octofoil. I know you know who to get it to.

Thanks,

John W. Baswell, Jr.

**Co. L - 47th Inf.
William Muldoon**

Sorry I missed the Friday meeting but was kind of wishy-washy due to the cool spell settling in, but with a little T.L.C. and aspirins hope to be up to my normal self again very shortly.

I got a telephone call from New Jersey about a good buddy of mine from Co. L, 47th Inf. passing away. I believe he was 83 years old. He was an old timer with the company from England on that I know of. Goerge Merz passed away September 12, 2004. I'm enclosing a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of George. He was a good man.

Nothing else new at this time at this end. Keep the home fires burning

Bill Muldoon

SEEKING**Co. B - 60th Inf.
Lisa Froug-Hirano**

During August and September of 1944, my uncle, Capt. Edward Weiss was the CO of B Company, 60th Infantry. He was seriously wounded on September 17, 1944 in the Hurtgen Forest and died four days later in the 51st Field Hospital, Germany. If anyone has any information about B Company during that time I would be grateful to hear from you.

From my research I have tons of documents about the 60th. Do you have an archivist who can use them? Hope all is well with you.

Sincerely,

a grateful fan of the 9th.

Lisa

MAIL CALL

(Continued from Page 7)

SEEKING
Co. K - 60th Inf.
Warren B. Petry

My brother, Bob served in K Co., was wounded in September 1944, returned to duty and was KIA December 11th. My son and my grandson are named after him and I want to give them some information about his Army service.

I have been searching locally for a history of K Co., 60th Infantry but have had no success. Any 60th Infantry histories that include K Co. in the time frame of say July 1944 and on would be useful if I knew where to buy them. Please help me out.

I enclose a check for the Memorial Fund in memory of Robert Ray Petry. K Co., 60th Infantry

Thank you
W. B. Petry

Co. E - 39th Inf.
Larry T. Faulkner

Enclosed is dues for three more years. I am a Fort Bragg - North Africa to the Elbe River vet. Plus surviving the USS Thomas Stone torpedoing and spent a year in the Korean War with Company E, 279th Infantry of the 45th "Thunderbirds" Infantry Division.

Hello to my good friends of E - 39th Inf. Capt. Kenneth W. Hill, who is doing battle with the big C. Also the following Grunts of Easy Company, Fighting Falcons: Willy Goldsmith, Joe Donovan, Dale "Doc" Smith, Don Mackerer, Gil Gricoski, Ward O. Payne, Dick Solar, John Sabato and 1st Sgt. John Sabato, Jr., Ed Rigsby, Joe Evancho, Alford Knight and Francis Troesken.

Although I'm blind in my left eye for the past five years, I'm staying above the ground and I'm OK health wise. I plan to see that "ole gang of mine" in Washington, DC next year.

Sincerely,
Larry Faulkner

P.S. Sorry, hope you can read my scribbling. Thanks. L



A Reunion Scene at Philadelphia, PA. What was the year?
1948 - 1955 - 1964 - 1978?

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?



**GOD BLESS
AMERICA**

THE OCTOFOIL

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CHAPTER NEWS

(Continued from Page 8)

The Christmas party with installation of 2005 officers will be on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth. Social hour begins at noon with dinner served at 1:00 PM. More details will follow.

It is our sad duty to report the death of one of our own: Robert Cole has passed away. He was not able to be with us recently, because of health problems, but he will be greatly missed.

Margaret Wisniewski
Secretary, Michigan Chapter
Ninth Infantry Division Association

NINTH RECON REFLECTIONS

The latest Octofoil brought us the sad news that we have lost another great buddy, Richard "Dick" Granbery. We also got a call from "Cappy" Capobianco after he read about it when his mail came in.

At the same time we got the sad word that Evan "Red" Thompson (Co. K - 47th) passed away. More recently, another sad call from Mrs. Maxine Cole informed us that her husband, Bob Cole (Co. C - 47th) died after a long illness. They all were long time members of the Michigan Chapter.

Rose and I have missed that Annual Picnic on August 14 at Mary Doering's lovely place in Alto, MI. I was undergoing tests for my Cataract surgery on the left eye. The Doc didn't want to take any chances with my Glaucoma and Diabetes. The surgery was slightly delayed but everything is fine now. We sent our regrets to Mary and received a nice note with some pictures of the "gang" having a nice time at the picnic. We hope to get together at Sec. Marge Wisniewski's place in Richmond, MI. before the Memorial Week-end in Worcester or at the Chapter Christmas Party on December 8 in that picturesque town of Frankenmuth, MI.

Last month we spent a very nice week up North at our daughter, Kathi and son-in-law, Craig's future retirement home on Tea Lake in Lewiston, MI. Whenever we are in that town we think of John "Al" and Jane Young (Co. D - 60th) who were very much a part of our Michigan Chapter during the glory years when the whole "gang" was still with us.

John and Jane bought a place a couple of blocks from center of town while he was still working at the Greyhound Lines in downtown Detroit. He was very handy with the hammer and the place they chose had a great potential for their future plans. Every chance that he had he'd be there working away till it became a beautiful retirement home. After his retirement they settled down and the whole Michigan Chapter was invited to Lewiston for a week-end that we will never forget.

There was a fine turnout and the celebration began on a great Saturday afternoon and went on till the late hours. Those that stayed spent the night at a nearby Lodge or Motel. In the morning we all met at the Village Restaurant for a nice Sunday breakfast together. Then we went back to enjoy John and Jane's wonderful hospitality for the rest of the day. We all left with pleasant memories to last a life time. The sad part is that most of those who were there on that very happy occasion are no longer with us. So it was with John "Al" Young who died of a brain tumor quite a few years ago. It's sad that he didn't live to enjoy a long retirement and everything that he had worked for. Jane stayed on for some time, and there were times when we'd visit her. The last that we heard she moved to Florida.

There are a couple of more memories I'd like to share as we're getting closer to the Memorial Week-end in Worcester. Years ago, John "Al" and I worked together on a few Michigan Chapter Convention Bus trips. They were all great but there was something about the one that took us to the 1973 Boston Reunion that we kept thinking about. There were 59 members there from the Michigan Chapter and 37 came on the bus. The unforgettable moment came as the Band began those patriotic renditions. George Brown raised the Flag from the stand in an instantaneous response, and led us in a Grand March with Father Connors. Almost everyone there fell in like never before.

In the morning as our Convention Bus was leaving for home, John "Al" and I had decided to give our group a special treat. We had the bus driver leave the Mass-Pike at Exit 10 and head for Worcester. We wanted to give them a chance to see the Ninth Infantry Division Memorial next to the Immaculate Conception Church on Gold Star Blvd. Father Connors was surprised to see our Convention Bus in front of the Church. We were all greeted and invited down the basement to Connors' Coffee Shop. The group was very impressed with such wonderful hospitality, especially those that had never been there before. They liked what they saw and many began attending the Annual Memorials. One year there were 29 and what a proud moment that was. We have tried since but never came up with the minimum 36 passengers for a Memorial Bus to Worcester.

For the past few years, Rose and I were the only ones from our Chapter who attend. God willing we will be there again on October 23 and 24. Our best regards to all.

Sincerely,
John Bonkowski